

**Enrolled Minutes of the First Meeting
For the Twenty-Ninth Town Council of Highland
Special Quadrennial Meeting
Wednesday, January 1, 2020**

The Twenty-Ninth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in its inaugural meeting for the purposes of administering the oath of office to the elected officers of the Town of Highland, who were elected in the Municipal Election, conducted November 5, 2019 and to organize itself, on Wednesday, January 1, 2020 at 12:00 O'clock P.M. in the regular place, the plenary meeting chambers of the Highland Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana.

Additional Officials Present: John M. Bach, Public Works Director; Mark Knesek, Operations Director; Peter Hojnicky, Metropolitan Police Chief; Patrick Vassar, Assistant Police Chief; John Banasiak, Commander, Highland Police Department; Alex M. Brown, CPRP, Parks and Recreation Superintendent; and William R. Timmer, Jr., CFOD, Fire Chief were present.

Also present: Larry Kondrat of the Board of Waterworks Directors; Mario Martini, Plan Commission; Rich Garcia and David Jones of the Highland Board of Sanitary Commissioners; and, Ed Dabrowski IT Director (Contract); were also present.

Guests: Rev. Gregory Bim-Merle, Assistant Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church; Theresa Badovich of the Idea Factory; Robert Kuva, School Town of Highland Board of Trustees; and Dan Dernulc, Lake County Councilor and Lake County Republican Chairman, were also present.

The session was opened with the Reverend Gregory Bim-Merle, Assistant Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church, Highland, pronouncing the invocation.

The public safety chiefs, Peter Hojnicky, Police Chief and William R. Timmer, Jr., CFOD, Fire Chief, jointly led all in offering the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag.

Acts to Qualify Elected Officials

Clerk-Treasurer Michael W. Griffin offered a brief survey of the history, origins and the meaning of the oath of office for the elected officials.

The Town Councilors -elect Bernie Zemen, Mark Herak, Mark Schocke, Tom Black, and Roger Sheeman were then presented individually by ward order, to the Highland Clerk-Treasurer, in order to offer public recital of the oath office.

Councilors-Elect Bernie Zemen, Mark Herak, Mark Schocke, Tom Black and Roger Sheeman offered a sworn oath. Having been duly sworn on their official oath, the Town Council Members took their place on the dais.

Pursuant to IC 36-5-2-7 and Section 2.05.040(D), the Clerk-Treasurer called the meeting to order for the purposes of electing the Town Council President.

Roll Call: Present on roll call were Councilors Bernie Zemen, Mark Herak, Mark Schocke, Tom Black, and Roger Sheeman.

Special Orders:

1. Election of the **Town Council President** for 2020, pursuant to Section 2.05.040 of the Highland Municipal Code. (*Once elected, Clerk-Treasurer will transfer gavel.*)

Councilor Black nominated Mark Schocke for Town Council President in 2020. There were no further nominations. Councilor Herak moved that nominations be closed, and that Councilor Mark Schocke be elected President. Councilor Zemen seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Councilor Mark Schocke was elected the 69th Town Council President and he assumed the chair.

2. Election of the **Town Council Vice President** for 2020, pursuant to Section 2.05.040.

Councilor Black nominated Bernie Zemen for Town Council Vice President in 2020. There were no further nominations. Councilor Herak moved that nominations be closed, and that Councilor Bernie Zemen be elected Vice President. Councilor Sheeman seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Councilor Bernie Zemen was elected to serve as Town Council Vice President.

Good & Welfare

- Councilor Zemen congratulated all the newly elected officials and congratulated Council President Schocke on his election as President. Councilor Zemen thanked his wife and granddaughter, all who turned out for this meeting and all who supported him.
- Councilor Herak thanked the Clerk-Treasurer and the senior staff in the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer, who assisted with the preparation of the meeting, refreshments and in the transition for the 29th Town Council.

Councilor Herak commended the public employees of the Town of Highland who assist in executing the policy of the Town as adopted by the Town Council. He also congratulated the new Town Council and expressed a wish for its success.

- Councilor Black also thanked the Clerk-Treasurer and the senior staff in the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer, who assisted with the preparation of the meeting, refreshments and in the transition for the 29th Town Council. Councilor Black thanked the department heads and all the public employees for their service. He thanked Councilors Zemen and Herak for their welcome. Finally, Councilor Black thanked all who supported him.

Councilor Black acknowledged his fiancé' and friends and guests.

- Councilor Sheeman thanked all the department heads and commended them for their good work. Councilor Sheeman acknowledged Councilor Kuiper, noting it was "his seat" that he was assuming. Councilor Sheeman offered a series of transparency goals for the Town Council adding that the live streaming of the meeting was one such goal.
- With leave from the Town Council, the Town Clerk-Treasurer offered his appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Clerk-Treasurer, affirming the path of his public service and acknowledged his wife, daughter and mother-in-law who were present.
- The Town Council President acknowledged his wife, Amanda, his daughter Charlotte, his son Ben and daughter Julie who are twins. He further acknowledged his parents, relatives, friends and neighbors who were present.

The Town Council President expressed appreciation for his election to the Town Council and as Town Council President. The Town Council President thanked the department heads and the public employees for their work and thanked all who were associated with arranging the meeting and the refreshments for the day. The Town Council President also acknowledged and thanked Rev. Fr. Gregory Bim-Merle.

It was announced that a reception for the public and guests would immediately follow the meeting in the Town Hall.

The Reverend Gregory Bim-Merle, Assistant Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church, Highland, pronounced the benediction.

Adjournment: There being no further business to conduct on the agenda, Council President Schocke declared the meeting **January 1, 2020** adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA/CPFIM/CMO
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by the Town Council at its meeting of _____, 2020.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA/CPFIM/CMO
Clerk-Treasurer